the Ladder

JANUARY

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purpose of the

Daughters of BILITIS

A WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROMOTING THE INTEGRATION OF THE HOMOSEXUAL INTO SOCIETY BY:

1. Education of the variant, with particular emphasis on the psychological, physiological and sociological aspects, to enable her to understand herself and make her adjustment to society in all its social, civic and economic implications—this to be accomplished by establishing and maintaining as complete a library as possible of both fiction and non-fiction literature on the sex deviant theme; by sponsoring public discussions on pertinent subjects to be conducted by leading members of the legal, psychiatric, religious and other professions; by advocating a mode of behavior and dress acceptable to society.

2. Education of the public at large through acceptance first of the individual, leading to an eventual breakdown of erroneous taboos and prejudices; through public discussion meetings aforementioned; through dissemination of educational literature on the homosexual theme.

3. Participation in research projects by duly authorized and responsible psychologists, sociologists and other such experts directed towards further knowledge of the homosexual.

4. Investigation of the penal code as it pertains to the homosexual, proposal of changes to provide an equitable handling of cases involving this minority group, and promotion of these changes through due process of law in the state legislatures.

the Ladder

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THE LADDER is regarded as a sounding board for various points of view on the homophile and related subjects and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the organization.

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COVER BY PATTI BROWN

EDITORIAL

The Curse of Censorship

The curse of censorship once again hangs low over the land like a black pall. This seems to be a periodic thing in our country, but dangerous nonetheless.

Although it would seem self-evident that the Lesbian has a great stake in fighting the would-be book burners and censors, the apathy among homosexual women (and men - and heterosexuals too, for that matter) is sometimes apalling.

Censorship is one of the most dangerous threats to freedom, leading as it does to supression of civil rights in many areas. It is the duty of every citizen who feels the threat to fight it as best he can. And homosexuals are citizens.

In each community where a "Committee for Decent Literature" has started there must be formed an opposing committee. As has been pointed out, if you wait until the censors present laws to local governing boards it is too late. Action must come from the citizens first.

It would be our suggestion that Lesbians become a bit more aware of their responsibilities and duties as citizens of their communities.

Not only does the cause of freedom have much to gain from more active participation by the thousands of homosexual men and women, but they can gain much by forsaking shelter and becoming active in their world.

Freedom is not easily won, nor is it easily kept. Its price is eternal vigilance against the steady wearing away actions of small minds. How about it? Surely freedom to read what one wishes is worth fighting for.

MATTACHINE SEMINAR

Sex and Censorship

ELSA KNIGHT THOMPSON, PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR FOR RADIO STATION KPFA-FM IN BERKELEY, CALIF., ACTING AS MODERATOR OF THE MATTACHINE SOCIETY'S PUBLICATIONS DAY SEMINAR DISCUSSION OF "SHOULD AMERICANS READ ABOUT SEX?" AT THE BELLEVUE HOTEL IN SAN FRANCISCO LAST MONTH, OPENED THE SESSION BY CHALLENGING THE QUESTION AS WORDED.

SINCE EVERYONE READS ABOUT SEX - IT'S IN THE BIBLE AND ON THE BILLBOARDS - THE QUESTION SHOULD BE "WHAT SHOULD WE READ (KNOW) ABOUT SEX?", MRS. THOMPSON SUGGESTED.

MOLLY MINUDRI, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW AND PRESIDENT OF SAN FRANCISCO'S "VIGILANTE" COMMITTEE FOR DECENT LITERATURE, OPENED THE DISCUSSION EXPLAINING THAT WHILE HER COMMITTEE WAS NEW TO SAN FRANCISCO IT WAS NOT NEW TO OTHER COMMUNITIES IN THE UNITED STATES. HER COMMITTEE CAME INTO BEING BECAUSE OF THE FLOOD OF LITERATURE ON THE MARKET WHICH "WE FEEL MAY SUBVERT THE MORALS OF OUR YOUTH."

THE COMMITTEE'S PROGRAM IS TWO-FOLD: (1) TO MAKE PARENTS AWARE OF THE SITUATION WHEREBY SMUTTY READING MATERIAL IS READILY AVAILABLE TO OUR YOUTH; AND (2) TO PREPARE AND PRESENT ORDINANCES FOR THE CITY OR STATE WHEREBY POLICE CAN ACT EFFICIENTLY IN THE PROSECUTION OF DISTRIBUTORS OF SUCH LITERATURE.

MRS. MINUDRI CITED THE FACT THAT PRESENT LAWS ARE INEFFECTIVE AND MUST BE TIGHTENED TO EFFECT PROSECUTION AND ELIMINATION OF "SMUT".

"WE ARE NOT CENSORS OR BOOK BURNERS", SHE EMPHASIZED. "CENSORSHIP BELONGS WITHIN THE FAMILY - IT IS UP TO THE PARENTS TO SEE THAT VULGAR LITERATURE DOESN'T ENTER THE HOME. MORALS DIFFER IN VARIOUS COMMUNITIES, AND IT IS OUR DESIRE TO RAISE THE READING STANDARDS OF SAN FRANCISCO," SHE SAID.

"ANYONE OVER 21 HAS THE FREEDOM OF CHOICE. HOWEVER, FREEDOM OF SPEECH HAS ITS LIMITATIONS," SHE DECLARED. "WE REALIZE SEX IS HERE TO STAY, BUT SEX AND OBSCENITY ARE NOT SYNONYMOUS."

THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE COURTS HAS BEEN THAT PORNOGRAPHY IS PUNISHABLE UNDER OUR OBSCENITY LAWS WHEN THE MATERIAL MIGHT AROUSE THE READER SEXUALLY, MRS. MINUDRI ADDED.

MRS. THOMPSON SUGGESTED THAT THE TWO POINTS MADE BY MRS. MINUDRI MIGHT BE CONFLICTING SINCE A CHANGE OF LAWS WOULD MAKE THE PROBLEM A COMMUNITY ONE RATHER THAN MERELY AN INDIVIDUAL FAMILY MATTER.

MRS. MINUDRI ADMITTED THAT "WHAT MIGHT BE PORNOGRAPHIC TO ME WOULD NOT BE TO YOU"; THAT IT WAS UP TO THE FAMILY. IN THE NEXT BREATH SHE SAID THAT SEX LITERATURE CORRUPTED THE MIND AND THAT WE SHOULD LET THE COURTS AND JURY DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT IT MEETS THE COMMUNITY'S STANDARDS.

SHE ALSO STATED THAT A GROUP OF ATTORNEYS WAS NOW AT WORK ON A LAW TO BE PRESENTED TO THE SAN FRANCISCO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS. BASED ON LAWS NOW MORE OR LESS OPERATIVE IN OTHER STATES, THE PROPOSED SAN FRANCISCO STATUTE WOULD PRESUMABLY TAKE AWAY THE "WILLFULLY AND KNOWINGLY" CLAUSE IN THE PRESENT LAWS. UNDER PRESENT LAWS NEWSTAND DEALERS MUST "WILLFULLY AND KNOWINGLY" PRESENT OBSCENE AND OBJECTIONABLE MATERIAL FOR SALE. SINCE MOST DEALERS DON'T HAVE TIME TO READ ALL THE MATERIAL FOR SALE AT THEIR STANDS THIS CLAUSE MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN A CONVICTION.

DR. PHYLLIS KRONHAUSEN, PSYCHOLOGIST AND CO-AUTHOR OF THE BOOK "PORNOGRAPHY AND THE LAW", STATED THAT SHE AND MRS. MINUDRI "DISAGREED VIOLENTLY." (THIS HAD BEEN RATHER APPARENT A FEW DAYS BEFORE WHEN THE TWO LADIES SQUARED OFF ON THE SAME SUBJECT ON TELEVISION STATION KQED, THE BAY AREA'S EDUCATIONAL STATION.) SHE POINTED OUT THAT "PLAYBOY" MAGAZINE, WHICH HAD BEEN ATTACKED BY THE SAN MATEO CITIZENS' COMMITTEE FOR DECENT LITERATURE, AND "LADY CHATTERLEY'S LOVER" WHICH HAD BEEN NAMED BY MRS. MINUDRI'S COMMITTEE, HAD BOTH BEEN CLEARED BY THE COURTS.

"WE MUST DEFINE OUR TERMS IN ORDER TO CLARIFY THIS SITUATION," SHE COUNTERED.

MRS. MINUORI SAID THE SUPREME COURT IN ITS DECISION HAD NAMED THAT READING MATERIAL WHICH IS "PRURIENT" AS COMING WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE COURTS - THAT IS, CALCULATED TO INCITE TO SEXUAL DESIRE IN ITS PURPOSE AND ITS EFFECT.

MRS. THOMPSON ASKED, "WOULDN'T THIS DEPEND UPON THE PERSON? A MORE SPECIFIC DEFINITION IS CRUCIAL."

DR. WALLACE DE ORTEGA MAXEY, FORMER EDITOR OF "SEX AND CENSORSHIP" MAGAZINE AND AUTHOR OF "MAN IS A SEXUAL BEING", INTERPOSED, "IN THE LAST ANALYSIS, THE COURT GIVES THE GENERAL TERM OF 'PRURIENT'. IT IS LEFT TO THE JURY TO DECIDE ON THAT PARTICULAR CASE. THE SAME BOOK CAN GO BEFORE TWO DIFFERENT TYPES OF GROUPS AND REACH TWO DIFFERENT CONCLUSIONS. THIS IN MY MIND IS NO SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM."

"WITH THESE LEAGUES SETTING THEMSELVES UP, IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT ANY GROUP OF CITIZENS HAS THE RIGHT TO ASSEMBLE AND TO MAKE CERTAIN ADVOCATIONS, BUT DO THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO INFLUENCE THE CONSTITUTIONAL LAWS ON THE TOTAL POPULATION— PEOPLE WHOSE IDEAS OF MORALITY MAY BE ENTIRELY DIFFERENT?"

"WE WOULD THUS BE SETTING UP AN INFALLIBLE CENSOR," DR. MAXEY SAID, "A STATE CHURCH. I CHALLENGE THE RIGHT OF GOVERNMENT TO LEGISLATE ON MORALS."

CHARLES R. GARRY, ATTORNEY, POINTED OUT THAT EVEN THE SUPREME COURT IS GREATLY DIVIDED ON CENSORSHIP. "THERE HAVE BEEN STRONG OPINIONS WRITTEN ON BOTH SIDES," HE SAID.

"WE CANNOT PASS LAWS JUST FOR MINORS," HE STATED. "THE LAW HAS TO BE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMON CITIZENRY."

HE REFERED TO THE COMMITTEE'S PROPOSAL TO DELETE THE "WILLFULLY AND KNOWINGLY" CLAUSE IN THE OBSCENITY LAWS, SAYING, "I AM DISTURBED AT ANY LAW THAT TAKES AWAY THE ELEMENT OF 'KNOWLEDGE'."

MR. GARRY POINTED OUT THAT A PUBLISHER OR AUTHOR IS NOT IN ANY POSITION TO KNOW HOW OTHER STATES MAY FEEL ABOUT A BOOK. WHAT MAY BE ACCEPTED HERE IN SAN FRANCISCO MAY BE CAUSE FOR A COURT TRIAL IN PENNSYLVANIA, FOR INSTANCE. "IF THERE IS

GOING TO BE CURTAILMENT, THERE IS EXTREME DANGER WITHOUT A SET STANDARD OR DEFINITION," HE DECLARED.

MRS. THOMPSON ASKED IF IT WERE NOT POSSIBLE IN THE LAW TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN LITERATURE OF DEGRADATION AS OPPOSED TO THAT ON THE ART LEVEL.

"IT CAN'T BE DONE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF 'DUE PROCESS'," MR. GARRY SAID.

"SOME JURIES DON'T READ. IN THE COURT HEARING PARAGRAPHS ARE PICKED OUT OF CONTEXT, AND THE JURY IS NEVER ABLE TO ENCOMPASS THE BOOK IN ITS TRUE SENSE," HE ADDED.

THE STATEMENT REMINDED MR. GARRY OF HIS OWN YOUTH--HIS SUNDAY SCHOOL DAYS. THE KIDS, HE RECALLED, USED TO PICK OUT SMUT IN THE BOOK OF RUTH. YET WE DO NOT CONSIDER THE BOOK OF RUTH PORNOGRAPHIC.

IN DISCUSSING HER BOOK, "PORNOGRAPHY AND THE LAW", DR. KRONHAUSEN SAID SHE AND HER HUSBAND ARE AGAINST CENSORSHIP. "WE ARE NOT NAIVE ENOUGH TO THINK, HOWEVER, THAT OUR CULTURE IS READY FOR 'HARD CORE PORNOGRAPHY'. IN OUR BOOK WE HAVE ATTEMPTED TO DEFINE 'HARD CORE PORNOGRAPHY' IN ORDER FOR THE COURTS TO DECIDE AGAINST THAT TINIEST BIT OF MATERIAL (WHICH IS AN EXTREMELY RARE PHENOMENA) AND TO PROTECT EROTIC REALISM AS FOUND IN 'LADY CHATTERLEY'S LOVER' AND 'MEMOIRS OF HECATE COUNTY'. THE PORTRAYAL OF LIFE IN LITERATURE NECESSARILY INCLUDES SEX, AND THIS DIFFERENTIATION MUST BE MADE," SHE ADDED.

WALTER WINTER, ATTORNEY, POINTED OUT THAT IN THE MATTER OF LEGISLATION, "IT IS DIFFICULT TO KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING TO STOP" AND THAT HE WAS ALWAYS RELUCTANT TO SEE RIGHTS TAKEN FROM INDIVIDUALS. HE SAID IT SHOULD BE KEPT IN MIND THAT UNLESS THE LAW HAS A VALID PURPOSE THERE SHOULD BE NO LAW--IT MUST HAVE MEANING TO THE COMMUNITY.

"FIRST WE SHOULD EXAMINE WHY THERE SHOULD BE LAWS. IN THIS INSTANCE, IT GOES BACK TO THE REARING OF CHILDREN IN THE HOME. INSTEAD OF SUPPRESSION, WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE PUBLICATION AND EDUCATION ABOUT SEX," MR. WINTER URGED.

"ARE WE GOING TO TELL WOMEN THEY CAN'T WEAR SWEATERS?" HE ASKED. "EROTIC THINKING MAY BE AROUSED BY THEM."

DR. MAXEY SAID THAT "SEX, LOVE AND LIFE ARE SO INTERTWINED THAT THEY CAN'T BE KEPT SEPARATE. THE PROBLEM STARTS IN THE HOME. NO TRAINING THERE IS WHAT WILL LEAD TO THE 'SMUT' INTERPRETATION OF LIFE," HE STATED.

MRS. THOMPSON, IN SUMMARY, SAID THAT IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE PANEL AS A WHOLE AGREED WITH MRS. MINUDRI THAT THE PROBLEM OF SEX LITERATURE RESTED WITH THE FAMILY, BUT THAT LEGAL STEPS TOWARD CENSORSHIP WERE DANGEROUS AND UNWARRANTED.

MRS. MINUDRI COUNTERED THAT SHE THOROUGHLY BELIEVED THAT THE COMMUNITY CAN SET STANDARDS. SHE CITED FOR EXAMPLE THE GAMBLING LAWS OF NEVADA. "WITH EVERY RIGHT THERE IS RESPONSIBILITY," SHE SAID.

"WOULD YOU THEN SAY THAT THE MAJORITY OF A COMMUNITY CAN THUS DECIDE TO OVERRIDE OUR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS?" MRS. THOMPSON ASKED.

"WE HAVE LIBEL AND SLANDER LAWS WHICH ARE RESTRICTIONS OF FREEDOM OF SPEECH," MRS. MINUDRI EMPHASIZED, "AND WE SHOULD ALSO HAVE RESTRICTIONS ON THAT WHICH OFFENDS THE MORAL CODE OF THE COMMUNITY."

"THE DECISION FINALLY RESTS ON THE CONSCIENCE OF THE JURY," MRS. MINUDRI CONCLUDED.

"THEN YOU ACCEPT THIS STANDARD?" MRS. THOMPSON QUERIED.

"IN OUR DEMOCRACY IT'S THE ONLY WAY WE CAN DO IT," MRS. MINUDRI SAID.

MR. WINTER POINTED OUT THAT LAWS OF LIBEL AND SLANDER WERE TRULY RESTRICTIONS ON FREEDOM OF SPEECH, BUT THEY ARE ALSO PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL.

MRS. MINUDRI ADMITTED THE FALLACY IN HUMAN NATURE THAT IF BOOKS ARE CALLED TABOO, THEY CAN IMMEDIATELY BE SOLD. AFTER THE CASE AGAINST "PLAYBOY" WAS ANNOUNCED IN THE NEWSPAPERS, THE NEWS-

STANDS WERE SOLD OUT.

"IF THERE IS BOOK BANNING THEN, CAN IT NOT LEAD TO A TREMENDOUS BLACK MARKET?" THE MODERATOR POSED.

DR. KRONHAUSEN SAID THAT SHE AND HER HUSBAND HAD DONE CONSIDERABLE RESEARCH AND THAT THEY HAVE YET TO FIND SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE (DESPITE OPINIONS PRONOUNCED BY PUBLIC FIGURES) THAT ACTUALLY PROVES THAT ANY READING MATERIAL CAN HAVE EFFECT ON A PERSON'S BEHAVIOR.

MRS. THOMPSON ASKED IF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL DIE OF AN INDIVIDUAL IS CAST BEFORE THE TEEN-AGE PERIOD OF READING.

DR. KRONHAUSEN SAID, YES, BEFORE THE AGE OF SIX. SHE SAID SHE FELT THAT CENSORSHIP CAUSED SERIOUS PSYCHOLOGICAL DAMAGE THROUGH FEELINGS OF FEAR AND GUILT.

DR. KRONHAUSEN ALSO SAID THAT THOSE WHO ADVOCATE CENSORSHIP "ARE AFRAID OF SEX, ASHAMED OF SEX, AND FEEL VERY GUILTY ABOUT SEX."

"UNFORTUNATELY PEOPLE ARE AFRAID TO COME OUT IN DISAGREEMENT—IT'S NOT GOOD POLITICS; IT IS NOT GOOD ECONOMICS," SHE ADDED.

DR. MAXEY POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE ATTEMPTS AT "VIGILANTE COMMITTEES" IN NORTH CAROLINA AND VIRGINIA; AND THAT JUVENILE READING WAS PLACED IN THE FRONT PART OF THE NEWSSTAND, ADULT READING (SO MARKED) IN THE BACK SECTION. THE DEALER COULD THEREFORE BE HELD RESPONSIBLE, HE SAID.

"I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO SAY THAT THEY PUT UP A SIGN—'THIS WAY TO OBSCENITY'," MRS. MINUDRI LAUGHED.

SECOND PANEL DISCUSSES "PORNOGRAPHY"

AT THE AFTER-BANQUET SYMPOSIUM ON "PORNOGRAPHY AND THE LAW" THE MODERATOR WAS DR. WALTER A. SHEPPE, BIOLOGIST. PANELISTS WERE: C. V. J. ANDERSON, EDITOR OF THE SAN FRANCISCO PUBLICATION, "THE UNDERHOUND"; DR. O. M. BAILEY, RETIRED EPISCOPAL CLERGYMAN; DRS.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 19)

Another Kind of Love

By Gail Williams

Jan sat on the big orange cushion near the picture window, her arms hugging her knees, her drink on the floor beside her. She seemed completely absorbed in the panoramic view spread before her eyes, the twinkling lights on the bay, the great span of two bridges and the lights of the sprawling cities that marched up and down the hills as far as the eye could see. She seemed oblivious of the noise, chatter and music in the smokey room behind her. Suddenly a hand touched her shoulder. It was Pat.

"Come back, little Sheba," she laughed. "Come out on the deck with me awhile. I've been wanting to talk to you anyway."

"O.K, help me up." Jan answered. She bent and picked up her drink and the two strolled out on the deck.

"Here, over here," Pat said, leading Jan to a secluded corner, formed by the projection of the car-port. "This is ideal."

Suddenly without knowing how it happened Jan found herself in Pat's arms and being kissed passionately. For what seemed an eternity they stood there in close embrace, then suddenly Jan pushed her away.

"Good heavens, Pat! What's come over you," she exclaimed somewhat breathlessly.

"Nothing new," Pat answered, trying to sound casual. "Its just that I'm in love with you. Have been for a long time."

When Jan remained silent Pat suddenly pleaded. "Don't tell me you don't love me too. I felt your response. You must care for me Jan. I would have known, when I kissed you, if you didn't. Jan! Please say something. How are we going

to tell Mary and Lesley?"

Jan leaned against the deck rail and continued to stare silently out toward the bay. She was silent so long, that Pat was disturbed. As she moved toward her and started to speak again, Jan turned around.

"Please sit down Pat," she said quietly motioning toward a deck chair. "I'll try to explain, altho I hardly know how to go about it." She seated herself in a chair facing Pat and lit a cigarette.

"In the first place," she continued, "We aren't going to tell Mary and Lesley." As Pat started to protest, Jan silenced her with a wave of her hand, "No Pat, let me finish first, then you can have your inning. I won't deny that I didn't feel a response when you kissed me. I did. To deny it would be lying and would serve no purpose. But that was a physical response and had nothing to do with love." Pat stirred as tho to protest. "Not yet," Jan said gently, "Wait until you've heard me out. I must admit I was surprised at my response to you, altho why it should surprise me I don't know. I imagine there would be several who could arouse the physical desire in me. It is only natural." She was silent for a moment as she sipped her drink. Then she continued, her voice even more soft and gentle. "Pat, Lesley and I have been together for nearly four years, so have you and Mary. Inevitably in such a relationship as ours, under the circumstances in which we must live, comes a time of boredom. The new has worn off. We have done our exploring of the other person. We know her likes and dislikes. The things we do together somehow have lost their thrill. Personal mannerisms become magnified. Little things seem to drive us crazy."

"Yes, I know," Pat interrupted eagerly. "Thats what is happening to Mary and me, and I'm sure you are feeling it too, or you couldn't describe it so well."

"Wait Pat," Jan commanded. "You're right. It did happen to us. It doesn't anymore."

"But Jan," Pat protested. "I've watched you and Lesley. You never stay together at a party. You hardly speak.

She dances and cuts up with the others and you sit around and dream or else chat quietly with others."

"Yes Pat, you're right." Jan smiled. "But not for the reason you think," she murmured dreamily. "It's because we've found another kind of love."

"Another kind of love!" Pat exclaimed. "What other kind are you talking about?" she asked skeptically.

"Well maybe not another kind so much as we have found an expansion - an extension, of our physical love. A love that is so much more than we had before that it seems like another kind."

Jan was silent so long that Pat finally prompted, "You were saying Jan, another kind of love..."

"Yes," Jan said, rousing herself. "Well, we had reached the point of boredom I was speaking of before. We agreed we had many things in common, a home, many mutually owned material things - but they didn't seem to be enough. We decided that we were fairly intelligent women so perhaps it would be wise of us to find out what love really was beyond mere physical attraction. So we found everything we could that had been written on the subject and we made a wonderful discovery, Pat! So wonderful and so simple that I'm surprised it took us so long to find out!"

"Yes, and what was this wonderful discovery of yours?" Pat asked sarcastically.

"Just that love is everywhere, Pat dear. We are only the channels thru which it flows. The secret of keeping the flow abundant is not to misuse it. It demands of us courtesy to the other, a conscious seeking of the things to make another happy. Notice I said conscious, Pat. When we first meet and fall in love, all our acts are unconscious, underlaid with the thrill of discovery, with the desire to make our loved one happy and to look well in her eyes. As time goes on we no longer make the effort, things settle down more or less to the mundane problems of living and we think we are no longer in love. Now when we make a conscious effort for the first time we really see our love

as she is, as she always was, really. In making a conscious effort to please we cannot help adding to our own stature any more than we can help breathing. The loved one responds to the conscious effort because she is aware of what is being done, and it awakens a response in her to do the same. Then, Pat, and only then do you begin to know your love. It encompasses the both of you and expands to include the whole world. Actually it is spiritual love and through it you learn to know the essence of your loved one. Not just the outward part she presents to the world, not the part she has given to you in the early days of your courtship, but the real essence of the individual as she actually is."

"But how is this accomplished?" asked Pat doubtfully. "You don't just order up spiritual love on a platter."

"No, of course you don't. You earn it in the way I suggested earlier. The more you try consciously to please a person the more you must actually think of that person, and the more you succeed the more joyful it becomes. And the nearer you draw together the more you are really doing what we were told to do nearly two thousand years ago, 'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.' It isn't just a mealy mouthed religious saying, Pat. It's just good sound practical advice. It doesn't solve all our problems in a minute, not by a long sight. We have to work at it and we are making it work. Right now I'm closer to Lesley than I've ever been. I'm sitting here talking to you because I enjoy myself doing so. Lesley is dancing and cutting up because she enjoys it. We are expressing ourselves in the way that it is our nature to do, but we are not detracting from the essence of our love for each other in so doing because we love and respect the individual in each other. Do you understand?"

"In a way I do," Pat said thoughtfully, "but what happens when something does upset you or threatens your security?"

"There is a saying, 'Those who pray together stay together', but I guess our method would be a little too unorthodox to call prayer. It's nearer to meditation, I guess. We both have a place where we can go to be alone. I don't know Lesley's method, but I try to put everything out of my mind, including the problem, and concentrate on something

lovely and beautiful. It could be a flower, or the intricate working of a leaf, or a sunset - oh, just anything to get the 'self' out of the way. Then, in some way I can't explain things assume their proper place. The 'problem' seems all out of proportion in comparison to such beauty, and you are filled with a peace you cannot describe. Then you are with your loved one again, and there is no describing a love that encompasses the heart, mind, body, and soul as well. That is spiritual too, my dear, our 'other kind of love' - real love."

They were silent a long time. Then suddenly Pat asked, "Jan, how can I help Mary?"

Gladness flowed through Jan's heart. "Mary is afraid of losing you, Pat," she said simply. "Making her secure in her love for you is your second step."

"Second step?" Pat was puzzled.

"Yes. You just took your first one in asking <u>how</u> you could help."

"I see - yes, I'm beginning to see a lot of things." She stood up and held out her hand to Jan. "Let's go in."

"Yes, let's," Jan agreed.

They stood for a moment looking over the crowded room. The both saw Mary turn toward the door, her eyes dark with question and fear seeking Pat's face. Suddenly her eyes widened in surprise, and a slow smile started across her face like the sun coming out from behind a dark cloud. Jan couldn't see Pat's face, but she knew everything would be all right.

She turned into the room to look for Lesley. "Lesley, darling," her heart sang, "let's go home."

* * * * *

OBSCENITY does not exist in any book or picture, but is wholly a quality of the reading or viewing mind.

--THEODORE SCHROEDER

a review

PORNOGRAPHY
AND THE LAW

REVIEW OF THE BOOK BY DRS. EBERHARD AND PHYLLIS KRONHAUSEN. INTRODUCTION BY DR. THEODOR REIK AND FOREWORD BY J. W. EHRLICH, ATTORNEY. BALLANTINE BOOKS, 1959.

THE TITLE OF THIS BOOK IS MISLEADING, AS IT IS PRIMARILY A TREATISE AGAINST UNJUST LITERARY CENSORSHIP. THE BATTLE FOR LITERARY FREEDOM IS OLDER THAN MAN'S KNOWLEDGE OF THE PRINTING PRESS AND IS PERHAPS INSOLUBLE. THE DRS. KRONHAUSEN CONTRIBUTE THE MOST ENLIGHTENED AND UNDOGMATIC DEFENSE OF EROTICALLY REALISTIC WRITING TO APPEAR IN THIS COUNTRY TO DATE.

THE BOOK IS DIVIDED INTO FOUR DISTINCT SECTIONS, THE FIRST OF WHICH ANALYZES AND DISCUSSES THE REALISTIC AUTHORS WHOSE WORKS HAVE DISTINCT LITERARY MERIT. THE SECOND SECTION DISCUSSES THE VIEWPOINT VARIOUS LEGAL BODIES HOLD ON LITERATURE AND OBSCENITY AND SHOWS HOW IMPRACTICAL SOME OF OUR LAWS REALLY ARE WHEN THEY ARE APPLIED TO ACTUAL CASES.

THE THIRD SECTION OF THE BOOK ANALYZES PORNOGRAPHIC LITERATURE AND MAKES CLEAR THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TRUE OR "HARD CORE" PORNOGRAPHY AND EROTICALLY REALISTIC WRITING. THE PURPOSE OF PORNOGRAPHY IS SIMPLY EROTIC AROUSAL; WHEREAS EROTICALLY REALISTIC WRITING IS A PORTRAYAL OF LIFE IN ITS MULTI-FACETED ASPECTS, GOOD AND BAD, WHICH CLEARLY IS NOT MEANT TO PRODUCE PURE PHYSICAL SENSATION, BUT MENTAL STIMULATION. ANOTHER ESSENTIAL DIFFERENCE AND ONE OFTEN OVER-

LOOKED BY PEOPLE TRYING TO CENSOR OR SUPPRESS LITERATURE IS THAT EROTICALLY REALISTIC WRITING HAS REAL AND IMPORTANT LITERARY MERIT WHEREAS PORNOGRAPHY HAS NO LITERARY VALUE.

THE FOURTH SECTION IS BY FAR THE MOST INTERESTING IN THAT THE AUTHORS DISCUSS AND EVALUATE SOME OF THE EXCELLENT LITERATURE OF OUR DAY WHICH HAS FALLEN UNDER THE SHADOW OF CENSORSHIP WITHOUT CAUSE. THERE IS A FINAL SUMMARY CHAPTER ON THE GOOD PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF READING REALISTIC LITERATURE. THE BOOK HAS AN ADEQUATE INDEX AND A LENGTHY BIBLIOGRAPHY. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED TO THOSE INTERESTED IN LEGAL AND ILLEGAL CENSORSHIP, LESBIAN LITERATURE OF MERIT, SUPPRESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND OTHER ASPECTS OF HUMAN CHOICE. PERHAPS BASICALLY AND FUNDAMENTALLY THE BOOK IS CONCERNED WITH THE RIGHT TO READ.

—GENE DAMON

DRS. PHYLLIS AND EBERHARD KRONHAUSEN

THE AUTHORS OF "PORNOGRAPHY AND THE LAW", WHO ARE HUSBAND AND WIFE, HAVE LED MORE OR LESS PARALLEL CAREERS IN THE PSYCHOANALYTICAL FIELD. BOTH INITIALLY OBTAINED DEGREES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA AND SUBSEQUENTLY CONTINUED WITH POST-GRADUATE WORK AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY. BOTH HAVE SPECIALIZED IN FAMILY THERAPY AND GROUP GUIDANCE, PRESENTING THEIR RESEARCH FINDINGS ON FAMILY MILIEU THERAPY WITH SEVERELY DISTURBED PARENTS AT THE 2ND INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS FOR PSYCHIATRY, ZURICH, IN 1957. BOTH ALSO STUDIED UNDER DR. THEODOR REIK, AND SINCE 1958 HAVE BEEN IN PRIVATE PRACTICE IN CALIFORNIA. BOTH ARE MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION AND THE COUNCIL OF PSYCHOANALYTIC PSYCHOTHERAPISTS.

TOGETHER THEY HAVE GIVEN VOICE TO MANY UNCONVENTIONAL IDEAS ABOUT SEX. THEY SAY, "IT IS OUR BUSINESS TO HELP PEOPLE RESOLVE EMOTIONAL AND FAMILY PROBLEMS WHICH PREVENT THEM FROM BEING HAPPY AND CREATIVE INDIVIDUALS. IN THAT RESPECT WE DO NOT DIFFER FROM OTHER PSYCHOLOGISTS. WHERE WE DIFFER IS IN OUR EXTREMELY LIBERAL VIEWS ON SEX. ...EVEN TODAY PEOPLE ARE UNWILLING TO ADMIT THE MOTIVATING ROLE OF SEX IN THEIR LIVES."

LESBIANA

124. ALRAUNE BY HANNS HEINZ EWERS. TRANSLATED BY S. GUY ENDORE. NEW YORK, 1929.

THE ANCIENT LEGEND OF THE MANDRAKE ROOT COME ALIVE IN A BEWITCHING BEAUTY WHO DRIVES LOVER AFTER LOVER TO DESTRUCTION. HER MYSTERIOUS APPEAL HAS EFFECT ALSO ON A PAIR OF WOMEN FRIENDS.

125. THE CENTER OF THE STAGE BY GERALD SYKES. NEW YORK. FARRAR, STRAUSS AND YOUNG, 1952.

AN ACTRESS FINDS HERSELF LOSING TO HER HUSBAND'S FINE INFLUENCE HER FRIENDS AND LOVERS, INCLUDING A LESBIAN ADMIRER. THE CHARACTERIZATION OF THE LESBIAN SEEMS INCIDENTAL AND NOT TOO CONVINCING.

126. MOON-KISSED BY BARRY DEVLIN. MODERN PRESS, 1956.

A TRASHY LITTLE NUMBER RAMPANT WITH ALL FORMS OF VARIANT AND LESBIAN EMOTION. WRITTEN AT A RAPID PACE WITH A VERY MASCULINE STORY LINE. LYN HARPER, THE HEROINE, IS FAIRLY NICE BUT NOT MUCH CAN BE SAID FOR THE REST OF THE CHARACTERS. WITH THE USUAL CONCESSION TO THE CENSORS THE LAST 10 MINUTES OF THE BOOK CHANGE LYN FROM A RATHER INTENSE YOUNG LESBIAN INTO A PASSIONATELY NORMAL WOMAN.

127. SO NICE, SO WILD BY MAX DAY. STANLEY LIBRARY, 1959.

FAST PACED AND SLICKLY PLOTTED MYSTERY WITH PLENTY OF LESBIAN ACTION. PLOT REVOLVES AROUND BLACKMAIL ATTEMPTS ON A COUPLE OF NOT TOO TYPICAL LESBIAN WOMEN. FULL OF S KULLDUGGERY AND INEPT PSYCHOLOGY BUT A GOOD FAST MOVING WAY TO SPEND AN EVENING. (AUTHOR HAS VIVID IMAGINATION BUT NEVER MET ANY LESBIAN YET HEARD OF BY MAN, WOMEN OR BEAST.)

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10)

PHYLLIS AND EBERHARD KRONHAUSEN, PSYCHOLOGISTS AND AUTHORS OF THE BOOK, "PORNOGRAPHY AND THE LAW"; AND DR. WALLACE DE ORTEGA MAXEY.

THE FIRST PART OF THE DISCUSSION WAS DEVOTED TO TRYING TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT READING PORNOGRAPHY REALLY HAS ANY HARMFUL EFFECTS. DR. EBERHARD KRONHAUSEN STATED THAT READING SUCH MATERIAL DID ACT AS A SEXUAL STIMULANT BUT THAT IT DID NOT LEAD TO ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOR. IT COULD LEAD TO A SEXUAL RESPONSE, HE SAID, BUT SUCH A RESPONSE IS CERTAINLY NOT HARMFUL OR A SIGN OF MALADJUSTMENT. ON THE OTHER HAND, DR. KRONHAUSEN FELT THAT SUCH READING ACTED AS A "SAFETY-VALVE" AND THE ACTUAL RESPONSE TO THE PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIAL DEPENDED ON THE READER'S TRAINING AND PERSONALITY.

DR. BAILEY FELT THAT PORNOGRAPHY HAD LITTLE EFFECT ON THE READER. HE SAID THAT THE HOMOSEXUALS HE HAD COUNSELLED CERTAINLY HAD NOT BECOME HOMOSEXUAL FROM READING ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY.

AMERICANS' FEAR OF SEX

DR. MAXEY WAS ASKED FOR HIS OPINION AS TO WHY THERE IS SUCH A GENERAL FEAR OF SEX IN THE UNITED STATES. HE REPLIED THAT THE FEAR STEMS FROM A PURITAN BACKGROUND, ERRONEOUS INTERPRETATIONS OF THE BIBLE AND FROM ANTIQUATED LEGAL CODES. ACCORDING TO DR. MAXEY THE SOLUTION LIES IN MODERNIZING OUR SEX LAWS IN THE LIGHT OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.

DR. PHYLLIS KRONHAUSEN WAS ASKED TO COMMENT ON THIS FEAR OF SEX. SHE SAID THAT IN SEXUAL MATTERS AMERICANS DEFINITELY FEEL GUILTY, ASHAMED AND FEARFUL. THE SOLUTION, SHE BELIEVES, IS ENLIGHTENED SEX EDUCATION.

SEX ATTITUDES OF THE "BEATNIKS"

MR. ANDERSON THEN DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH THE ATTITUDES AND SEX

HABITS OF THE "BOHEMIAN" ELEMENT OF SAN FRANCISCO'S NORTH BEACH. HE SAID THAT THIS GROUP OF PEOPLE IS GENERALLY QUITE OPEN ABOUT SEX AND ARE QUITE ACTIVE SEXUALLY, BUT THAT THERE IS LITTLE OR NO PLEASURE INVOLVED IN SEX FOR THEM. HE SAID THAT THESE PEOPLE ARE PERHAPS BEST CHARACTERIZED AS BEING HIGHLY DISTURBED, BUT ALSO HIGHLY ARTICULATE.

FINALLY, DR. BAILEY WAS ASKED IF HE THOUGHT THAT THE MORALITY OF A PARTICULAR GROUP SHOULD BE FORCED ONTO A COMMUNITY BY LAW. HE ANSWERED THAT IT SHOULD NOT.

Obscenity Ordinance Ruling

The Supreme Court last month struck down a Los Angeles city ordinance making it a crime for a bookseller to have an obscene book in his possession.

Justice William J. Brannan Jr., speaking for the court, said the ordinance, though aimed at obscene matter, "has such a tendency to inhibit constitutionally protected expression" that it cannot stand.

The case was started by Eleazar Smith, 73, proprietor of a Los Angeles book store, who was sentenced to 30 days in jail for having a book about Lesbianism entitled "Sweeter Than Life" by Mark Tryon.

Brennan noted that the court has held that obscene speech and writings are not protected by the Constitution's guarantee of free speech.

But, he said, the ordinance in question would tend to penalize book-sellers "even though they had not the slightest notion of the character of the books they sold." Seven justices agreed with Brennan; Justice John Harlan went along part way.

"If the bookseller is criminally liable without knowledge of the contents, and the ordinance fulfills its purpose," he added, "he will tend to restrict the books he sells to those he has inspected. And thus the state will have imposed a restriction upon the distribution of constitutionally protected literature."

ONE'S 1960 MIDWINTER INSTITUTE

"THE HOMOSEXUAL IN THE COMMUNITY"

THE AMERICAN PREMIERE OF JAMES BARR'S STIRRING PLAY, "GAME OF FOOLS", WILL BE PRESENTED AS PART OF ONE'S ANNUAL MIDWINTER INSTITUTE TO BE HELD IN LOS ANGELES JANUARY 28 - 31.

THE PROGRAM WILL ALSO INCLUDE: THE HOMOSEXUAL COMMUNITY AROUND THE WORLD - TAPES, RADIO BROADCASTS AND SLIDES; PANEL AND ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSIONS; FEATURED SPEAKERS; AND THE FINAL SESSION OF ONE INSTITUTE'S SOCIOLOGY CLASS.

PRICE FOR THE ENTIRE PROGRAM, INCLUDING SATURDAY LUNCHEON AND BANQUET, IS $11.50. REDUCED RATES ARE OFFERED FOR COUPLES AT $10 PER PERSON.

EVENTS WILL BE HELD IN ONE'S OFFICES AND AT THE HOTEL CLARK IN LOS ANGELES. ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. WRITE FOR FULL INFORMATION TO ONE, INC., 232 S. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES 12, CALIF.

WHY ARE YOU A LESBIAN ?

As part of the program for the Daughters of Bilitis' first national convention to be held the last week end of May, the Convention Committee proposes to present several short statements by Lesbians themselves as to why they feel they are Lesbians. These statements will be read to a group of experts (psychiatrists and psychologists) and thrown open for discussion.

To do this we need your help. We ask that you send us a short summary - not more than two pages - of why you think you are a Lesbian. You need not sign your name. Literary style is also unimportant.

All we want is a straightforward statement of your ideas of "Why the Lesbian?"

READER'S RESPOND

"AGREE ABOUT EXPANDING 'LESBIANA', INCLUDING LISTING THE PRICES OF THE BOOKS SO THEY CAN BE ORDERED BY MAIL IF NOT AVAILABLE LOCALLY. WOULD REALLY LIKE TO SEE YOU START A BOOK SERVICE - POSTAGE PLUS A SERVICE CHARGE, OF COURSE, AND PERHAPS A MINIMUM ORDER REQUIREMENT. SHOULD HELP THE TREASURY, TOO.

"THOUGHT DEL MARTIN'S DEFINITION OF LESBIANISM IN THE AUGUST ONE BEAUTIFULLY PHRASED. IT DESERVES A PERMANENT PLACE IN THE LADDER - ON THE COVER OR THE MASTHEAD."

M. H., ILLINOIS

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"WITH GREAT INTEREST DID I STUDY THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF THE LADDER CONTAINING THE REPORT AND OUTCOME OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE. NOT MASTERING THE LANGUAGE EFFICIENTLY I'M NOT ABLE TO GIVE YOU AN INTELLIGENT OPINION. THAT MUCH I WILL TELL YOU - ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER OF QUESTIONNAIRES YOU SENT OUT - IT IS TOO BAD SO FEW WERE INTERESTED ENOUGH TO FILL OUT THE QUESTIONNAIRE . . . I'M SURPRISED THAT PEOPLE LACK THE COURAGE TO REPLY TRULY IN ORDER TO MAKE MATTERS EASIER FOR THEMSELVES AND MAYBE MAKE OFFICIALS START LISTENING TO DEMANDS AND NECESSITIES TO CHANGE SOME LAWS."

W. K., VANCOUVER, B. C.

* * * * *

"FROM WHAT I GATHERED, YOUR SUBSCRIBERS, BY JUNE 1958, NUMBERED ABOUT 500 PERSONS. YOU GOT REPLIES (TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE - SEE THE SEPTEMBER, 1959, LADDER) FROM 160 PERSONS, ABOUT ONE-THIRD. WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH THE OTHER TWO-THIRDS? ARE THEY STILL ASHAMED OF WHAT THEY ARE AND AFRAID? WHY DON'T THEY GROW UP AND FACE IT? WHAT DO THEY GAIN BY BEING CLOSED-MOUTH AND HIDING THEMSELVES?

"HOW OFTEN WE HEAR THAT WE HOMOSEXUALS ARE LOOKED DOWN ON - HAVE

NO PLACE IN SOCIETY. IT IS UP TO US, THE HOMO HIMSELF, TO RE-EDUCATE SOCIETY AND CHANGE OLD JUDEAN-CHRISTIAN AND ANCIENT LAWS CONCERNING OURSELVES - BUT HOW CAN WE DO THIS WHEN WE SIT COMPLACENTLY BACK MEEKLY LETTING ONLY A HANDFUL OF US SPEAK AND WORK FOR THE CAUSE. A DROP FILLS NOT THE BUCKET NOR DOES ONE SWALLOW MAKE A SUMMER. NOR CAN A HANDFUL OF LESBIANS CHANGE THE LAWS. WAKE UP! LIVE! AND DECLARE YOURSELVES. IT IS TIME. THERE ARE SO MANY OF US AND WE HAVE TO STICK TOGETHER. WHEN WE HOLLER LONG ENOUGH AND LOUD ENOUGH WE WILL BE HEARD - OR ARE YOU FEELING GUILTY FOR WHAT YOU ARE - THEN OF COURSE I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY YOU ARE QUIET.

"IN THIS TWENTIETH CENTURY ATOM AGE WITH ALL OUR UNDERSTANDING IN PSYCHOLOGY, PSYCHIATRY AND ANTHROPOLOGY IT SHOULD NOT BE HARD TO SEE THE LIGHT.

"OUR PRIESTESS SAPPHO ONCE WROTE:

'LET ME TELL YOU
THIS: SOMEONE IN
SOME FUTURE TIME
WILL THINK OF US'

Y.A., CALIFORNIA

* * * * *

"WHILE I ADMIRE AND APPRECIATE YOUR WORK IN THE LADDER, I AM COMPELLED TO CRITICIZE THE STORY, 'LOVE IS A DANDELION', IN THE OCTOBER ISSUE. BECAUSE THE LADDER APPEARS ON NEWSSTANDS AND IS READ BY OTHERS OUTSIDE OUR GROUP I CONSIDER IT IMPERATIVE THAT WE BE CONSTANTLY AWARE OF THE IMPRESSION LESBIANS MAKE UPON THE GENERAL PUBLIC IF WE WISH TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL OF ACCEPTANCE.

"THE STORY IN QUESTION IS WELL WRITTEN. HOWEVER, IN ALL MY ADULT LIFE AS A LESBIAN I HAVE NEVER KNOWN ONE OF MY KIND TO EXERCISE THE POOR JUDGMENT AND LACK OF REGARD FOR CHILDREN BROUGHT OUT IN THIS STORY. HERE IS A WOMAN WHO TELLS A CONFUSED LITTLE GIRL OF HER LOST LOVE BY SHOWING HER A PICTURE OF WHAT THE CHILD THINKS IS A FEMININE MAN UNTIL INFORMED THAT IT IS A MASCULINE WOMAN. AS THOUGH THAT IS NOT ENOUGH, THIS UNLOVELY CHARACTER THEN DRIPS HER SELF-PITY ALL OVER THE YOUNGSTER. I MUST AGREE WITH THE LITTLE

GIRL'S MOTHER THAT (IF SUCH A LESBIAN EVER EXISTED) SHE WOULD, IN DEED, BE A 'BAD LADY' AND IT WOULD BE WELL FOR CHILDREN TO STAY AWAY FROM HER."

Z. N., CALIFORNIA

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"JUST A NOTE OF APPRECIATION AND EXPRESSION OF MY OPINION ON THE WORK THAT YOU ALL HAVE BEEN DOING. FIRST OF ALL I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT I ENJOYED THE STORY, 'THE SECRET GARDEN' BY LISA BEN. MAY I STATE THAT THE STORY SEEMED SO REALISTIC, ACTUALLY MORE THAN IT DID FICTION. LET'S HAVE MORE OF THESE.

"AS TO THE 'LESBIANA', I THINK THAT YOU SHOULD ENLARGE IT, TOO. I USE THE LISTS QUITE OFTEN. NOW MAY I STATE THAT I THINK YOU ALL ARE DOING VERY GOOD WORK AND THE MAGAZINE HAS IMPROVED GREATLY SINCE RECEIVING MY FIRST MAGAZINE, ABOUT TWO OR THREE YEARS AGO. I HAVE WONDERED IN THE PAST HOW YOU ORGANIZE YOUR WORK AND GET YOUR MATERIAL? I PLAN, IF IT IS PERMISSABLE TO DROP IN AND SEE YOU ALL WORKING WHEN I COME TO CALIFORNIA. I WOULD, AND I KNOW MANY OTHERS WHO SUBSCRIBE TO YOUR MAGAZINE, LIKE TO SEE IT AND THE PERSONNEL WORKING."

D. C., TEXAS

ANYONE IS MORE THAN WELCOME TO DROP INTO THE DOB OFFICE WHENTHEY ARE IN SAN FRANCISCO. WE DO SUGGEST, HOWEVER, THAT YOU DROP US A LINE BEFOREHAND, SINCE THE OFFICE IS NOT STAFFED EVERY NIGHT. FOR A "BLOW-BY-BLOW" DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE LADDER WORK IS DONE SEE THE OCTOBER, 1959 ISSUE OF THE LADDER. - ED.

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" I WANT TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR FINE WORK AND TIME SPENT ON THE LADDER EACH MONTH. AS FOR MYSELF I READ THE WHOLE BULLETIN THE FIRST NIGHT I GET IT.

"THE SURVEY WAS VERY INTERESTING, SURPRISING AND WELL DONE. I HAVE MOST OF THE (POCKET) BOOKS THAT WERE MENTIONED IN THE ISSUES I RECEIVED. THEY ARE ALL VERY INTERESTING. I LIKE TO COMPARE MY

COLLECTION WITH THE LISTS. I SUPPOSE MOST EVERYONE HAS READ 'WOMEN IN THE SHADOWS' BY ANN BANNON. PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRINT LESBIANA.

"I TRULY ENJOY YOUR MAGAZINE AND LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING IT EVERY MONTH. YOU'VE DONE A FINE JOB."

H. D., CALIF.

* * * * *

"WE HAVE JUST PUT DOWN THE NOVEMBER ISSUE OF THE LADDER AND FEEL COMPELLED TO WRITE YOU IMMEDIATELY TO THANK YOU FOR A FINE JOB - NOT ONLY IN THIS, BUT ALSO IN PRECEDING ISSUES.

"WITH EACH SUCCESSIVE ISSUE OF THE LADDER, WE HAVE BECOME MORE AND MORE IMPRESSED BY THE HIGH CALIBRE OF THIS MAGAZINE IN ITS APPROACH TO, AND HANDLING OF, THE PROBLEMS FACING THE HOMOPHILE IN TODAY'S SOCIETY. WE ARE RECENT SUBSCRIBERS WHO HAD ALL BUT GIVEN UP HOPE OF FINDING A PUBLICATION WHICH COULD DO ANYTHING BETTER THAN REPRINT REPORTS OF LURID SEX TRIALS OR PUBLISH THE MORE SENSATIONAL TYPE OF NEWS CONCERNING THE HOMOPHILE'S WORLD.

"WE FEEL THAT YOU ARE TAKING THE FIRST IMPORTANT STEPS IN PUBLISHING NEWS AND VIEWS IN AN INTELLIGENT FASHION FOR AN AUDIENCE WHICH APPRECIATES A MATURE, THOUGHTFUL, SENSITIVE HANDLING OF BOTH. AND WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THIS AUDIENCE IS MORE VAST THAN READER RESPONSE WOULD INDICATE.

"THE VOICE OF THIS SILENT AUDIENCE IS THE ONE THAT SHOULD BE HEARD; IT IS THE 'THINK' PEOPLE AMONG US WHO CAN BEST HELP OUR CAUSE, AND ON WHOSE SHOULDERS RESTS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF HELPING TO LIFT THE IRON CURTAIN BETWEEN THE HOMOSEXUAL AND HETEROSEXUAL WORLDS. THE HIGH EDITORIAL QUALITY OF THE LADDER IS THE MOST ENCOURAGING EVIDENCE OF THIS THAT WE HAVE YET SEEN; IT GIVES US A GENUINE AND EXHILARATING SENSE OF PRIDE TO BE AMONG THOSE WHO SUBSCRIBE NOT ONLY TO THE MAGAZINE ITSELF BUT TO ITS GOALS AND IDEALS AS WELL.

"THE LADDER GIVES US A STRONG SENSE OF IDENTIFICATION WITH ALL THE OTHERS LIKE OURSELVES WHO SHARE A COMMON WORLD. WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR MANY MORE VOICES FROM THE ABOVE-MENTIONED SILENT AUDIENCE - FROM THOSE WHO FEEL, AS WE DO, THAT THERE IS DIGNITY IN THE HOMO-

PHILE'S WAY OF LIFE, AS WELL AS GROWTH, FULFILLMENT AND MANY REWARDS.

"WE WILL RENEW OUR SUBSCRIPTION TO YOUR MAGAZINE - OF THAT YOU CAN BE SURE. WE ONLY WISH WE KNEW 1,000 OTHERS TO WHOM WE COULD SEND SUBSCRIPTIONS. THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE, UNFORTUNATELY, BUT WE WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE IN ANY WAY WE CAN TO YOUR SUPPORT AND CONTINUED GROWTH.

"IT IS EXCITING TO BE A SUBSCRIBER TO THE LADDER. WE SINCERELY HOPE WE WILL BE TELLING YOU THE SAME THING TWENTY-FIVE YEARS FROM NOW."

N. B. K., NEW YORK.

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"I READ THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF THE LADDER WITH GREAT INTEREST. HOWEVER, I BELIEVE THAT THESE FINDINGS, UNCOVERED BY THE QUESTIONNAIRE OF 1958, ARE NOT CONCLUSIVE. WE KNOW THAT THIS IS ONLY A SMALL SECTION OF THE LESBIAN POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES. NOT ONLY IS IT A SMALL PERCENTAGE, BUT THOSE ANSWERING THE QUESTIONNAIRE SENT TO THEM ARE OBVIOUSLY OF THE HIGHER TYPE LESBIAN. THE ALCOHOLICS AND THE NARCOTIC ADDICTS WERE TOO BUSY DOING OTHER THINGS TO REPLY; THAT IS WHY YOUR FINDINGS ARE LIMITED.

"HOWEVER, I THINK THAT THE QUESTIONNAIRE MADE A TREMENDOUS STRIDE FORWARD. WE AT LEAST KNOW ABOUT 157 LESBIANS. NOW LET US GATHER INFORMATION CONCERNING THE 157,000,000 WHICH INHABIT THE WORLD. IS IT POSSIBLE? OR ARE OUR WOMEN HIDING BEHIND IGNORANCE AND FEAR AND STUPIDITY. WHEN YOU GET INFORMATION ON THAT GROUP YOU MAY HAVE SOMETHING OF REAL VALUE. HOWEVER, MOST OF THIS INFORMATION WILL HAVE TO BE GIVEN TO YOU, NOT BY THE SUBJECTS THEMSELVES BUT BY COMPETENT PSYCHIATRISTS."

J. W., NEW YORK

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"MY ROOMMATE AND I SURELY DO ENJOY THE LADDER AND AS SOON AS WE GET A MINUTE WE'LL WRITE YOU THAT SUMMARY AS TO "WHY" THAT YOU REQUESTED IN THE OCTOBER ISSUE.

D. S. P., NEW MEXICO

Daughters of BILITIS

INCORPORATED

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